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RR RUEHBZ RUEH DU RUEHJO RUEHMR RUEHRN
DE RUEHSB #0513 1621516
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 111516Z JUN 07
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1578
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA 1625
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 1492
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 1629
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0288
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0894
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 1257
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 1685
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 4096
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1454
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UNCLAS HARARE 000513

SIPDIS

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AF/S FOR S. HILL
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR B. PITTMAN
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [ZI](#)
SUBJECT: ZANU-PF WINS PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTION AMID LITTLE
INTEREST

REF: A. HARARE 418
[1](#)B. HARARE 133

[1](#)1. (SBU) As expected (Ref A), the ruling party won the Zaka East Parliamentary by-election on June 9, after both factions of the MDC boycotted the race. ZANU-PF candidate retired Brigadier General Livingstone Chineka polled 11,162 votes against only 2,376 combined for two smaller parties. Chineka, who is resident in Masvingo, resigned from the Army on May 9th, two days before the nomination court sat. Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) staff told pol assistant that the polling was characterized by a low voter turnout - 27 percent according to observers - and by an unusually high number of assisted voters.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Despite the low turnout and ZANU-PF's wide margin of victory, ZESN field observers witnessed a number of irregularities, including a high number of assisted voters at some polling stations. One ZESN observer reported that an elderly lady, who was assisted by government polling agents, told him that she told the Zimbabwe Election Commission (ZEC) officers that she wanted to vote for "any party other than ZANU-PF". According to her, the officers did not follow her instructions. At one polling station 68 out of the 451 voters were assisted to vote.

Comment

[1](#)3. (SBU) The MDC boycott all but ensured a ZANU-PF victory, but the participation of two smaller opposition parties gave this by-election a false legitimacy. This is the second by-election in a row (Ref B) won by recently retired military officers. Combined with unconfirmed reports that army

officers are working as ZEC officials during elections, this is a further indication of the trend toward militarizing the state.

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